

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCI-06 NSF-04 COA-02 AID-20 AEC-11

NSC-07 INT-08 IO-14 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EPA-04

CEQ-02 EB-11 /150 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: SALINITY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 45739

1. MEXICAN COMMISSIONER CONSULTED FRIEDKIN RE SALINITY LEGISLATION AT REQUEST OF RABASA WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS CONCERNED. FRIEDKIN COMMENTED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO REASON FOR CONCERN AT THIS STAGE, AND THAT ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ANTICIPATE WHEN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED, ENACTMENT OF AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION BY APRIL OR MAY SEEMS POSSIBLE.

2. FRIEDKIN EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE TWO BILLS BEFORE THE INTERIOR COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE. EACH WOULD PROVIDE THE WORKS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE SALINITY AGREEMENT, THE BILLS DIFFERING PRINCIPALLY IN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BILL IS LIMITED TO IMPLEMENTATION WHILE THE COMMITTEE BILL WOULD AUTHORIZE A START AT PROJECTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROL SALINITY ABOVE IMPERIAL DAM.

3. FRIEDKIN ASSESSED, AS DOES DEPARTMENT, THAT THERE IS NO CONTROVERSY IN THE COMMITTEES REGARDING THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT.

4. FRIEDKIN SAID REPORT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED EARLY IN APRIL AND SENATE HEARING IS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26.

5. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ANY SPECIFIC QUESTION, MEXICAN COMMISSIONER SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND REASON FOR COMMITTEE BILL MAKING INSTALLATION OF BORDER PUMPS CONDITIONAL ON STATUS OF GROUNDWATER NEGOTIATIONS AFTER TWO YEARS. FRIEDKIN EXPLAINED THAT THIS SUGGESTION ORIGINATED WITH BASIN STATES BUT THEY WERE NOW RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION. ADMINISTRATION BILL WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE PUMPING PROGRAM, WHICH ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS BE DEFERRED AND HANDLED SEPARATELY. RUSH

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